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10/672,712	09/26/2003	Duane W. Buckingham	INC-0019	1137
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CANTOR COLBURN LLP 55 Griffin Road South Bloomfield, CT 06002			EXAMINER NGUYEN, HUNG T	
			ART UNIT 2636	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 05/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/672,712

Applicant(s)

BUCKINGHAM ET AL.

Examiner

Hung T. Nguyen

Art Unit

2636

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 1/4/2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34, 63-78 and 165-180 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34, 63-78 and 165-180 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/26/2003.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-5, 7-16, 18-34 & 165-180 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holcomb et al. (U.S. 5,933,085).

Regarding claim 1, Holcomb discloses a method of effecting a reduction of energy usage in a room of a multi-unit building [ figs.1-3, col.1, lines 7-10, col.7, lines 54-65 and abstract ] comprising:

- determining a vacant occupant status of the room [ figs.1-3, col.1, line 58 to col.2, line 8 and col.3, lines 54-65 ];
- generating digital commands which can be programmed in a memory of micro-controller (13) in response to the vacant occupant status of the room [ figs.2,8, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-35 and col.7, lines 4-9 ];

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- converting the digital commands at a gateway device / the micro-controller (13) located inside of the room into infrared commands [ figs.2,8, col.3, lines 54-65, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-35 and col.7, lines 4-9 ];
- transmitting the infrared commands from the gateway device / the micro-controller (13) [ fig.8, col.6, lines 23-35, col.7, lines 54-64 and col.8, lines 16-24 ];
- receiving the infrared commands at a room environment control device / setting the temperature located inside of the room [ fig.8, col.1, line 55 to col.2, line 39, col.4, lines 66 to col.4, line 23,];
- converting the infrared commands into electronic command / which can be programmed in a memory of micro-controller (13) in response to the vacant occupant status of the room which are progressed by the room environmental control device to effect a reduction of energy usage by a room environmental device associated with the room environment control device [ figs.2,8, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-35 and col.7, lines 4-9 ].

The reference of Holcomb does not specifically disclose terms as digital commands, gateway device, room environment control device as claimed by the applicant.

However, the Holcomb's does the teach the function of environment control lock system having a energy control means (1) which contains a micro-controller device (13) is an integrated circuit device includes a memory for programming data information in the room as setting on / off the lighting, television, temperature as heat or AC in the room when a guest / occupant status as in or out of the room which can be sensed by motion detector and door switch detector [ figs.2,8, col.1, line 55 to col.2, line 39, col.3, lines 54-65, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-55

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to employ the method of Holcomb includes the energy control unit and the memory device to provide energy savings in the heating, cooling, lighting, television and etc. of the room which can be programmed / set by the guest or management.

Regarding claim 2, Holcomb discloses the method of effecting a reduction of energy usage in a room of a multi-unit building as determining a vacant occupant status of the room / un-rented room in the hotels or guest house [ figs.1-3, col.1, line 58 to col.2, line 8 and col.3, lines 54-65 ].

Regarding claim 3, Holcomb discloses the method of effecting a reduction of energy usage in a room of a multi-unit building as determining a vacant occupant status of the room / un-occupied room in the hotels or guest house [ figs.1-3, col.1, line 58 to col.2, line 8 and col.3, lines 54-65 ].

Regarding claim 4, Holcomb discloses the method of effecting a reduction of energy usage in a room of a multi-unit building as determining a vacant occupant status of the room / un-occupied room in the hotels or guest house which can be sensed by door switch detector (14B) [ fig.5, col.1, line 55 to col.2, line 13, col.3, lines 54-65 and col.6, lines 1-5 ].

Regarding claim 5, Holcomb discloses the method of effecting a reduction of energy usage in a room of a multi-unit building as determining a vacant occupant status of the room / un-occupied room in the hotels or guest house which can be sensed by infrared motion detector (15B) [ fig.4,

Regarding claims 7-8, The Holcomb's does the micro-controller device (13) is an integrated circuit device includes a memory for programming data information in the room as setting on / off the lighting, television, temperature as heat or AC as a network in the room when a guest / occupant status as in or out of the room which can be sensed by motion detector (15B) and door switch detector (14B) [ figs.2,8, col.2, lines 15-22, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-55 and col.7, lines 54-64 ].

Regarding claim 9, The Holcomb's discloses the room environment control device / setting the temperature located inside of the room is a thermostat device [ fig.8, col.1, line 55 to col.2, line 39 and col.4, lines 66 to col.4, line 23 ];

Regarding claim 10, The Holcomb's discloses the room environment control device communicates with the micro-controller device (13) is an integrated circuit device includes a memory for programming data information in the room as setting on / off the lighting, television, temperature as heat or AC as a network in the room when a guest / occupant status as in or out of the room which can be sensed by motion detector (15B) and door switch detector (14B) [ figs.2,8, col.2, lines 15-22, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-55 and col.7, lines 54-64 ].

Regarding claim 11, The Holcomb's discloses the room environment control device communicates with the micro-controller device (13) is an integrated circuit device includes a memory for programming data information in the room as setting on / off the lighting, television, temperature as heat or AC as a network in the room when a guest / occupant status as in or out of

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the room which can be sensed by motion detector (15B) and door switch detector (14B) [ figs.2,8, col.2, lines 15-22, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-55 and col.7, lines 54-64 ].

Regarding claim 12, Holcomb discloses a system of effecting a reduction of energy usage in a room of a multi-unit building [ figs.1-3, col.1, lines 7-10, col.7, lines 54-65 and abstract ] comprising:

- determining a vacant occupant status of the room [ figs.1-3, col.1, line 58 to col.2, line 8 and col.3, lines 54-65 ];
- digital commands which can be programmed in a memory of micro-controller (13) in response to the vacant occupant status of the room [ figs.2,8, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-35 and col.7, lines 4-9 ];
- a gateway device / the micro-controller (13) located inside of the room into infrared commands [ figs.2,8, col.3, lines 54-65, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-35 and col.7, lines 4-9 ];
- transmitting the infrared commands from the gateway device / the micro-controller (13) [ fig.8, col.6, lines 23-35, col.7, lines 54-64 and col.8, lines 16-24 ];
- receiving the infrared commands at a room environment control device / setting the temperature located inside of the room [ fig.8, col.1, line 55 to col.2, line 39, col.4, lines 66 to col.4, line 23,];
- converting the infrared commands into electronic command / which can be programmed in a memory of micro-controller (13) in response to the vacant occupant status of the room which are progressed by the room environmental control device to effect a reduction of energy usage by a

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room environmental device associated with the room environment control device [ figs.2,8, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-35 and col.7, lines 4-9 ].

The reference of Holcomb does not specifically disclose terms as digital commands, gateway device, room environment control device as claimed by the applicant.

However, the Holcomb's does the teach the function of environment control lock system having a energy control means (1) which contains a micro-controller device (13) is an integrated circuit device includes a memory for programming data information in the room as setting on / off the lighting, television, temperature as heat or AC in the room when a guest / occupant status as in or out of the room which can be sensed by motion detector (15B) and door switch detector (14B) [ figs.2,8, col.1, line 55 to col.2, line 39, col.3, lines 54-65, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-55 and col.7, lines 4-9 ].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to employ the system of Holcomb includes the energy control unit and the memory device to provide energy savings in the heating, cooling, lighting, television and etc. of the room which can be programmed / set by the guest or management.

Regarding claim 13, Holcomb discloses the system of effecting a reduction of energy usage in a room of a multi-unit building as determining a vacant occupant status of the room / un-rented room in the hotels or guest house [ figs.1-3, col.1, line 58 to col.2, line 8 and col.3, lines 54-65 ].



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Regarding claim 14, Holcomb discloses the system of effecting a reduction of energy usage in a room of a multi-unit building as determining a vacant occupant status of the room / un-occupied room in the hotels or guest house [ figs.1-3, col.1, line 58 to col.2, line 8 and col.3, lines 54-65 ].

Regarding claim 15, Holcomb discloses the system of effecting a reduction of energy usage in a room of a multi-unit building as determining a vacant occupant status of the room / un-occupied room in the hotels or guest house which can be sensed by door switch detector (14B) [ fig.5, col.1, line 55 to col.2, line 13, col.3, lines 54-65 and col.6, lines 1-5 ].

Regarding claim 16, Holcomb discloses the system of effecting a reduction of energy usage in a room of a multi-unit building as determining a vacant occupant status of the room / un-occupied room in the hotels or guest house which can be sensed by infrared motion detector (15B) [ fig.4, col.1, lines 55-64, col.3, lines 54-65 and col.6, lines 6-9 ].

Regarding claims 18-19, The Holcomb's does the micro-controller device (13) is an integrated circuit device includes a memory for programming data information in the room as setting on / off the lighting, television, temperature as heat or AC as a network in the room when a guest / occupant status as in or out of the room which can be sensed by motion detector (15B) and door switch detector (14B) [ figs.2,8, col.2, lines 15-22, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-55 and col.7, lines 54-64 ].

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Regarding claim 20, The Holcomb's discloses the room environment control device / setting the temperature located inside of the room is a thermostat device [ fig.8, col.1, line 55 to col.2, line 39 and col.4, lines 66 to col.4, line 23 ];

Regarding claim 21, The Holcomb's discloses the room environment control device communicates with the micro-controller device (13) is an integrated circuit device includes a memory for programming data information in the room as setting on / off the lighting, television, temperature as heat or AC as a network in the room when a guest / occupant status as in or out of the room which can be sensed by motion detector (15B) and door switch detector (14B) [ figs.2,8, col.2, lines 15-22, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-55 and col.7, lines 54-64 ].

Regarding claim 22, The Holcomb's discloses the room environment control device communicates with the micro-controller device (13) is an integrated circuit device includes a memory for programming data information in the room as setting on / off the lighting, television, temperature as heat or AC as a network in the room when a guest / occupant status as in or out of the room which can be sensed by motion detector (15B) and door switch detector (14B) [ figs.2,8, col.2, lines 15-22, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-55 and col.7, lines 54-64 ].

Regarding claim 23, Holcomb discloses a method of effecting a reduction of energy usage in a room of a multi-unit building [ figs.1-3, col.1, lines 7-10, col.7, lines 54-65 and abstract ] comprising:

- determining a vacant occupant status of the room [ figs.1-3, col.1, line 58 to col.2, line 8 and col.3, lines 54-65 ];

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- data information which can be programmed in a memory of micro-controller (13) in response to the vacant occupant status of the room [ figs.2,8, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-35 and col.7, lines 4-9 ];
- converting the data information from the memory device at in the micro-controller (13) located inside of the room into infrared data [ figs.2,8, col.3, lines 54-65, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-35 and col.7, lines 4-9 ];
- transmitting the infrared data from the gateway device / the micro-controller (13) [ fig.8, col.6, lines 23-35, col.7, lines 54-64 and col.8, lines 16-24 ];
- receiving the infrared data at a room environment control device / setting the temperature located inside of the room [ fig.8, col.1, line 55 to col.2, line 39, col.4, lines 66 to col.4, line 23,];
- converting the infrared data into electronic command / which can be programmed in a memory of micro-controller (13) in response to the vacant occupant status of the room which are progressed by the room environmental control device to effect a reduction of energy usage by a room environmental device associated with the room environment control device [ figs.2,8, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-35 and col.7, lines 4-9 ].

The reference of Holcomb does not specifically disclose terms as profile, electronic data, gateway device, room environment control claimed as disclose by the applicant.

However, the Holcomb's does the teach the function of environment control lock system having a energy control means (1) which contains a micro-controller device (13) is an integrated circuit device includes a memory for programming data information in the room as setting on / off the lighting, television, temperature as heat or AC in the room when a guest / occupant status as in or out of the room which can be sensed by motion detector (15B) and door switch detector

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(14B) [ figs.2,8, col.1, line 55 to col.2, line 39, col.3, lines 54-65, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-55 and col.7, lines 4-9 ].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to employ the method of Holcomb includes the energy control unit and the memory device to provide energy savings in the heating, cooling, lighting, television and etc. of the room which can be programmed / set by the guest or management.

Regarding claims 24-25, The Holcomb's does the micro-controller device (13) is an integrated circuit device includes a memory for programming data information in the room as setting on / off the lighting, television, temperature as heat or AC as a network in the room when a guest / occupant status as in or out of the room which can be sensed by motion detector (15B) and door switch detector (14B) [ figs.2,8, col.2, lines 15-22, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-55 and col.7, lines 54-64 ].

Regarding claim 26, The Holcomb's discloses the room environment control device / setting the temperature located inside of the room is a thermostat device [ fig.8, col.1, line 55 to col.2, line 39 and col.4, lines 66 to col.4, line 23 ];

Regarding claim 27, The Holcomb's discloses the room environment control device communicates with the micro-controller device (13) is an integrated circuit device includes a memory for programming data information in the room as setting on / off the lighting, television, temperature as heat or AC as a network in the room when a guest / occupant status as in or out of

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the room which can be sensed by motion detector (15B) and door switch detector (14B) [ figs.2,8, col.2, lines 15-22, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-55 and col.7, lines 54-64 ].

Regarding claim 28, The Holcomb's discloses the room environment control device communicates with the micro-controller device (13) is an integrated circuit device includes a memory for programming data information in the room as setting on / off the lighting, television, temperature as heat or AC as a network in the room when a guest / occupant status as in or out of the room which can be sensed by motion detector (15B) and door switch detector (14B) [ figs.2,8, col.2, lines 15-22, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-55 and col.7, lines 54-64 ].

Regarding claim 29, Holcomb discloses a system of effecting a reduction of energy usage in a room of a multi-unit building [ figs.1-3, col.1, lines 7-10, col.7, lines 54-65 and abstract ] comprising:

- determining a vacant occupant status of the room [ figs.1-3, col.1, line 58 to col.2, line 8 and col.3, lines 54-65 ];
- data information which can be programmed in a memory of micro-controller (13) in response to the vacant occupant status of the room [ figs.2,8, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-35 and col.7, lines 4-9 ];
- converting the data information from the memory device at in the micro-controller (13) located inside of the room into infrared data [ figs.2,8, col.3, lines 54-65, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-35 and col.7, lines 4-9 ];
- transmitting the infrared data from the gateway device / the micro-controller (13) [ fig.8, col.6, lines 23-35, col.7, lines 54-64 and col.8, lines 16-24 ];

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- receiving the infrared data at a room environment control device / setting the temperature located inside of the room [ fig.8, col.1, line 55 to col.2, line 39, col.4, lines 66 to col.4, line 23,];

- converting the infrared data into electronic command / which can be programmed in a memory of micro-controller (13) in response to the vacant occupant status of the room which are progressed by the room environmental control device to effect a reduction of energy usage by a room environmental device associated with the room environment control device [ figs.2,8, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-35 and col.7, lines 4-9 ].

The reference of Holcomb does not specifically disclose terms as profile, electronic data, digital data, gateway device, room environment control device as claimed by the applicant.

However, the Holcomb's does the teach the function of environment control lock system having a energy control means (1) which contains a micro-controller device (13) is an integrated circuit device includes a memory for programming data information in the room as setting on / off the lighting, television, temperature as heat or AC in the room when a guest / occupant status as in or out of the room which can be sensed by motion detector (15B) and door switch detector (14B) [ figs.2,8, col.1, line 55 to col.2, line 39, col.3, lines 54-65, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-55 and col.7, lines 4-9 ].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to employ the system of Holcomb includes the energy control unit and the memory device to provide energy savings in the heating, cooling, lighting, television and etc. of the room which can be programmed / set by the guest or management.

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Regarding claims 30-31, The Holcomb's does the micro-controller device (13) is an integrated circuit device includes a memory for programming data information in the room as setting on / off the lighting, television, temperature as heat or AC as a network in the room when a guest / occupant status as in or out of the room which can be sensed by motion detector (15B) and door switch detector (14B) [ figs.2,8, col.2, lines 15-22, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-55 and col.7, lines 54-64 ].

Regarding claim 32, The Holcomb's discloses the room environment control device / setting the temperature located inside of the room is a thermostat device [ fig.8, col.1, line 55 to col.2, line 39 and col.4, lines 66 to col.4, line 23 ];

Regarding claim 33, The Holcomb's discloses the room environment control device communicates with the micro-controller device (13) is an integrated circuit device includes a memory for programming data information in the room as setting on / off the lighting, television, temperature as heat or AC as a network in the room when a guest / occupant status as in or out of the room which can be sensed by motion detector (15B) and door switch detector (14B) [ figs.2,8, col.2, lines 15-22, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-55 and col.7, lines 54-64 ].

Regarding claim 34, The Holcomb's discloses the room environment control device communicates with the micro-controller device (13) is an integrated circuit device includes a memory for programming data information in the room as setting on / off the lighting, television, temperature as heat or AC as a network in the room when a guest / occupant status as in or out of

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the room which can be sensed by motion detector (15B) and door switch detector (14B) [ figs.2,8, col.2, lines 15-22, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-55 and col.7, lines 54-64 ].

Regarding claim 165, Holcomb discloses a method of effecting a reduction of energy usage in a room of a multi-unit building [ figs.1-3, col.1, lines 7-10, col.7, lines 54-65 and abstract ] comprising:

- determining a vacant occupant status of the room [ figs.1-3, col.1, line 58 to col.2, line 8 and col.3, lines 54-65 ];
- generating digital commands which can be programmed in a memory of micro-controller (13) in response to the vacant occupant status of the room [ figs.2,8, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-35 and col.7, lines 4-9 ];
- converting the digital commands at a gateway device / the micro-controller (13) located inside of the room into infrared commands [ figs.2,8, col.3, lines 54-65, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-35 and col.7, lines 4-9 ];
- transmitting the infrared commands from the gateway device / the micro-controller (13) [ fig.8, col.6, lines 23-35, col.7, lines 54-64 and col.8, lines 16-24 ];
- receiving the infrared commands at a room environment control device / setting the temperature located inside of the room [ fig.8, col.1, line 55 to col.2, line 39, col.4, lines 66 to col.4, line 23,];
- converting the infrared commands into electronic command / which can be programmed in a memory of micro-controller (13) in response to the vacant occupant status of the room which are progressed by the room environmental control device to effect a reduction of energy usage by a



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room environmental device associated with the room environment control device [ figs.2,8, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-35 and col.7, lines 4-9 ].

The reference of Holcomb does not specifically disclose terms as digital commands, gateway device, light switch as claimed by the applicant.

However, the Holcomb's does the teach the function of environment control lock system having a energy control means (1) which contains a micro-controller device (13) is an integrated circuit device includes a memory for programming data information in the room as setting on / off the lighting, television, temperature as heat or AC in the room when a guest / occupant status as in or out of the room which can be sensed by motion detector (15B) and door switch detector (14B) [ figs.2,8, col.1, line 55 to col.2, line 39, col.3, lines 54-65, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-55 and col.7, lines 4-9 ] and the Holcomb's discloses the room environment control device / setting the temperature located inside of the room is a thermostat device [ fig.8, col.1, line 55 to col.2, line 39 and col.4, lines 66 to col.4, line 23 ].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to employ the method of Holcomb includes the energy control unit and the memory device to provide energy savings in the heating, cooling, lighting, television and etc. of the room which can be programmed / set by the guest or management.

Regarding claim 166, Holcomb discloses the method of effecting a reduction of energy usage in a room of a multi-unit building as determining a vacant occupant status of the room / un-rented room in the hotels or guest house [ figs.1-3, col.1, line 58 to col.2, line 8 and col.3, lines 54-65 ].

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Regarding claim 167, Holcomb discloses the method of effecting a reduction of energy usage in a room of a multi-unit building as determining a vacant occupant status of the room / un-occupied room in the hotels or guest house [ figs.1-3, col.1, line 58 to col.2, line 8 and col.3, lines 54-65 ].

Regarding claim 168, Holcomb discloses the method of effecting a reduction of energy usage in a room of a multi-unit building as determining a vacant occupant status of the room / un-occupied room in the hotels or guest house which can be sensed by door switch detector (14B) [ fig.5, col.1, line 55 to col.2, line 13, col.3, lines 54-65 and col.6, lines 1-5 ].

Regarding claim 169, Holcomb discloses the method of effecting a reduction of energy usage in a room of a multi-unit building as determining a vacant occupant status of the room / un-occupied room in the hotels or guest house which can be sensed by infrared motion detector (15B) [ fig.4, col.1, lines 55-64, col.3, lines 54-65 and col.6, lines 6-9 ].

Regarding claims 170-171, The Holcomb's does the micro-controller device (13) is an integrated circuit device includes a memory for programming data information in the room as setting on / off the lighting, television, temperature as heat or AC as a network in the room when a guest / occupant status as in or out of the room which can be sensed by motion detector (15B) and door switch detector (14B) [ figs.2,8, col.2, lines 15-22, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-55 and col.7, lines 54-64 ].

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Regarding claim 172, The Holcomb's discloses the room environment control device communicates with the micro-controller device (13) is an integrated circuit device includes a memory for programming data information in the room as setting on / off the lighting, television, temperature as heat or AC as a network in the room when a guest / occupant status as in or out of the room which can be sensed by motion detector (15B) and door switch detector (14B) [ figs.2,8, col.2, lines 15-22, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-55 and col.7, lines 54-64 ].

Regarding claim 173, Holcomb discloses a system of effecting a reduction of energy usage in a room of a multi-unit building [ figs.1-3, col.1, lines 7-10, col.7, lines 54-65 and abstract ] comprising:

- determining a vacant occupant status of the room [ figs.1-3, col.1, line 58 to col.2, line 8 and col.3, lines 54-65 ];
- generating digital commands which can be programmed in a memory of micro-controller (13) in response to the vacant occupant status of the room [ figs.2,8, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-35 and col.7, lines 4-9 ];
- converting the digital commands at a gateway device / the micro-controller (13) located inside of the room into infrared commands [ figs.2,8, col.3, lines 54-65, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-35 and col.7, lines 4-9 ];
- transmitting the infrared commands from the gateway device / the micro-controller (13) [ fig.8, col.6, lines 23-35, col.7, lines 54-64 and col.8, lines 16-24 ];

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- receiving the infrared commands at a room environment control device / setting the temperature located inside of the room [ fig.8, col.1, line 55 to col.2, line 39, col.4, lines 66 to col.4, line 23,];
- converting the infrared commands into electronic command / which can be programmed in a memory of micro-controller (13) in response to the vacant occupant status of the room which are progressed by the room environmental control device to effect a reduction of energy usage by a room environmental device associated with the room environment control device [ figs.2,8, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-35 and col.7, lines 4-9 ].

The reference of Holcomb does not specifically disclose terms as digital commands, gateway device, light switch as claimed by the applicant.

However, the Holcomb's does the teach the function of environment control lock system having a energy control means (1) which contains a micro-controller device (13) is an integrated circuit device includes a memory for programming data information in the room as setting on / off the lighting, television, temperature as heat or AC in the room when a guest / occupant status as in or out of the room which can be sensed by motion detector (15B) and door switch detector (14B) [ figs.2,8, col.1, line 55 to col.2, line 39, col.3, lines 54-65, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-55 and col.7, lines 4-9 ] and the Holcomb's discloses the room environment control device / setting the temperature located inside of the room is a thermostat device [ fig.8, col.1, line 55 to col.2, line 39 and col.4, lines 66 to col.4, line 23 ].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to employ the system of Holcomb includes the energy control unit and the memory device to provide

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energy savings in the heating, cooling, lighting, television and etc. of the room which can be programmed by the guest or management.

Regarding claim 174, Holcomb discloses the method of effecting a reduction of energy usage in a room of a multi-unit building as determining a vacant occupant status of the room / un-rented room in the hotels or guest house [ figs.1-3, col.1, line 58 to col.2, line 8 and col.3, lines 54-65 ].

Regarding claim 175, Holcomb discloses the method of effecting a reduction of energy usage in a room of a multi-unit building as determining a vacant occupant status of the room / un-occupied room in the hotels or guest house [ figs.1-3, col.1, line 58 to col.2, line 8 and col.3, lines 54-65 ].

Regarding claim 176, Holcomb discloses the method of effecting a reduction of energy usage in a room of a multi-unit building as determining a vacant occupant status of the room / un-occupied room in the hotels or guest house which can be sensed by door switch detector (14B) [ fig.5, col.1, line 55 to col.2, line 13, col.3, lines 54-65 and col.6, lines 1-5 ].

Regarding claim 177, Holcomb discloses the method of effecting a reduction of energy usage in a room of a multi-unit building as determining a vacant occupant status of the room / un-occupied room in the hotels or guest house which can be sensed by infrared motion detector (15B) [ fig.4, col.1, lines 55-64, col.3, lines 54-65 and col.6, lines 6-9 ].

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Regarding claims 178-179, The Holcomb's does the micro-controller device (13) is an integrated circuit device includes a memory for programming data information in the room as setting on / off the lighting, television, temperature as heat or AC as a network in the room when a guest / occupant status as in or out of the room which can be sensed by motion detector (15B) and door switch detector (14B) [ figs.2,8, col.2, lines 15-22, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-55 and col.7, lines 54-64 ].

Regarding claim 180, The Holcomb's discloses the room environment control device communicates with the micro-controller device (13) is an integrated circuit device includes a memory for programming data information in the room as setting on / off the lighting, television, temperature as heat or AC as a network in the room when a guest / occupant status as in or out of the room which can be sensed by motion detector (15B) and door switch detector (14B) [ figs.2,8, col.2, lines 15-22, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-55 and col.7, lines 54-64 ].

3. Claims 6, 17 & 63-78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holcomb et al. (U.S. 5,933,085) in view of Patterson et al. (U.S. 5,675,487).

Regarding claim 6, Holcomb does not specifically disclose the room environment control device may communicate with a window treatment control device as claimed by the applicant.

Patterson teaches a system for controlling energy through window which having a microprocessor control device is provided for controlling signal to the motor to adjust the angle

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of the fenestration blinds in automatically way to provide privacy, security and reduce radiative heat loss during the winter [ figs.1-3, col.1, line 66 to col.2, line 10, lines 51-59, col.3, line 57 to col.4, line 19 and col.7, line 5-23 ].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to employ the teaching of Patterson in the system of Holcomb for controlling nature lighting, window blinds, draperies and reducing energy usage in a room as desired.

Regarding claim 17, Holcomb does not specifically disclose the room environment control device may communicate with a window treatment control device as claimed by the applicant.

Patterson teaches a system for controlling energy through window which having a microprocessor control device is provided for controlling signal to the motor to adjust the angle of the fenestration blinds in automatically way to provide privacy, security and reduce radiative heat loss during the winter [ figs.1-3, col.1, line 66 to col.2, line 10, lines 51-59, col.3, line 57 to col.4, line 19 and col.7, line 5-23 ].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to employ the teaching of Patterson in the system of Holcomb for controlling nature lighting, window blinds, draperies and reducing energy usage in a room as desired.

Regarding claim 63, Holcomb discloses a method of effecting a reduction of energy usage in a room of a multi-unit building [ figs.1-3, col.1, lines 7-10, col.7, lines 54-65 and abstract ] comprising:

- determining a vacant occupant status of the room [ figs.1-3, col.1, line 58 to col.2, line 8 and col.3, lines 54-65 ];

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- generating digital commands which can be programmed in a memory of micro-controller (13) in response to the vacant occupant status of the room [ figs.2,8, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-35 and col.7, lines 4-9 ];
- converting the digital commands at a gateway device / the micro-controller (13) located inside of the room into infrared commands [ figs.2,8, col.3, lines 54-65, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-35 and col.7, lines 4-9 ];
- transmitting the infrared commands from the gateway device / the micro-controller (13) [ fig.8, col.6, lines 23-35, col.7, lines 54-64 and col.8, lines 16-24 ];
- receiving the infrared commands at a room environment control device / setting the temperature located inside of the room [ fig.8, col.1, line 55 to col.2, line 39, col.4, lines 66 to col.4, line 23,];
- converting the infrared commands into electronic command / which can be programmed in a memory of micro-controller (13) in response to the vacant occupant status of the room which are progressed by the room environmental control device to effect a reduction of energy usage by a room environmental device associated with the room environment control device [ figs.2,8, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-35 and col.7, lines 4-9 ].

The reference of Holcomb does not specifically disclose terms as digital commands, gateway device, room environment control device as claimed by the applicant.

However, the Holcomb's does the teach the function of environment control lock system having a energy control means (1) which contains a micro-controller device (13) is an integrated circuit device includes a memory for programming data information in the room as setting on / off the lighting, television, temperature as heat or AC in the room when a guest / occupant status



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as in or out of the room which can be sensed by motion detector (15B) and door switch detector (14B) [ figs.2,8, col.1, line 55 to col.2, line 39, col.3, lines 54-65, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-55 and col.7, lines 4-9 ].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to employ the method of Holcomb includes the energy control unit and the memory device to provide energy savings in the heating, cooling, lighting, television and etc. of the room which can be programmed by the guest or management.

The Holcomb's is still missing the room environment control device may communicate with a window treatment control device as claimed by the applicant.

Patterson teaches a system for controlling energy through window which having a microprocessor control device is provided for controlling signal to the motor to adjust the angle of the fenestration blinds in automatically way to provide privacy, security and reduce radiative heat loss during the winter [ figs.1-3, col.1, line 66 to col.2, line 10, lines 51-59, col.3, line 57 to col.4, line 19 and col.7, line 5-23 ].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to employ the teaching of Patterson in the system of Holcomb for controlling nature lighting, window blinds, draperies and reducing energy usage in a room as desired.

Regarding claim 64, Holcomb discloses the method of effecting a reduction of energy usage in a room of a multi-unit building as determining a vacant occupant status of the room / un-rented room in the hotels or guest house [ figs.1-3, col.1, line 58 to col.2, line 8 and col.3, lines 54-65 ].

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Regarding claim 65, Holcomb discloses the method of effecting a reduction of energy usage in a room of a multi-unit building as determining a vacant occupant status of the room / un-occupied room in the hotels or guest house [ figs.1-3, col.1, line 58 to col.2, line 8 and col.3, lines 54-65 ].

Regarding claim 66, Holcomb discloses the method of effecting a reduction of energy usage in a room of a multi-unit building as determining a vacant occupant status of the room / un-occupied room in the hotels or guest house which can be sensed by door switch detector (14B) [ fig.5, col.1, line 55 to col.2, line 13, col.3, lines 54-65 and col.6, lines 1-5 ].

Regarding claim 67, Holcomb discloses the method of effecting a reduction of energy usage in a room of a multi-unit building as determining a vacant occupant status of the room / un-occupied room in the hotels or guest house which can be sensed by infrared motion detector (145) [ fig.4, col.1, lines 55-64, col.3, lines 54-65 and col.6, lines 6-9 ].

Regarding claims 68-69, The Holcomb's does the micro-controller device (13) is an integrated circuit device includes a memory for programming data information in the room as setting on / off the lighting, television, temperature as heat or AC as a network in the room when a guest / occupant status as in or out of the room which can be sensed by motion detector (15B) and door switch detector (14B) [ figs.2,8, col.2, lines 15-22, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-55 and col.7, lines 54-64 ].

Regarding claim 70, The Holcomb's discloses the room environment control device communicates with the micro-controller device (13) is an integrated circuit device includes a

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memory for programming data information in the room as setting on / off the lighting, television, temperature as heat or AC as a network in the room when a guest / occupant status as in or out of the room which can be sensed by motion detector (15B) and door switch detector (14B) [ figs.2,8, col.2, lines 15-22, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-55 and col.7, lines 54-64 ].

Regarding claim 71, Holcomb discloses a system of effecting a reduction of energy usage in a room of a multi-unit building [ figs.1-3, col.1, lines 7-10, col.7, lines 54-65 and abstract ] comprising:

- determining a vacant occupant status of the room [ figs.1-3, col.1, line 58 to col.2, line 8 and col.3, lines 54-65 ];
- digital commands which can be programmed in a memory of micro-controller (13) in response to the vacant occupant status of the room [ figs.2,8, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-35 and col.7, lines 4-9 ];
- a gateway device / the micro-controller (13) located inside of the room into infrared commands [ figs.2,8, col.3, lines 54-65, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-35 and col.7, lines 4-9 ];
- transmitting the infrared commands from the gateway device / the micro-controller (13) [ fig.8, col.6, lines 23-35, col.7, lines 54-64 and col.8, lines 16-24 ];
- receiving the infrared commands at a room environment control device / setting the temperature located inside of the room [ fig.8, col.1, line 55 to col.2, line 39, col.4, lines 66 to col.4, line 23,];
- converting the infrared commands into electronic command / which can be programmed in a memory of micro-controller (13) in response to the vacant occupant status of the room which are

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progressed by the room environmental control device to effect a reduction of energy usage by a room environmental device associated with the room environment control device [ figs.2,8, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-35 and col.7, lines 4-9 ].

The reference of Holcomb does not specifically disclose terms as digital commands, gateway device, room environment control device as claimed by the applicant.

However, the Holcomb's does the teach the function of environment control lock system having a energy control means (1) which contains a micro-controller device (13) is an integrated circuit device includes a memory for programming data information in the room as setting on / off the lighting, television, temperature as heat or AC in the room when a guest / occupant status as in or out of the room which can be sensed by motion detector (15B) and door switch detector (14B) [ figs.2,8, col.1, line 55 to col.2, line 39, col.3, lines 54-65, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-55 and col.7, lines 4-9 ].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to employ the system of Holcomb includes the energy control unit and the memory device to provide energy savings in the heating, cooling, lighting, television and etc. of the room as programmed the guest or management.

The Holcomb's is still missing the room environment control device may communicate with a window treatment control device as claimed by the applicant.

Patterson teaches a system for controlling energy through window which having a microprocessor control device is provided for controlling signal to the motor to adjust the angle of the fenestration blinds in automatically way to provide privacy, security and reduce radiative

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heat loss during the winter [ figs.1-3, col.1, line 66 to col.2, line 10, lines 51-59, col.3, line 57 to col.4, line 19 and col.7, line 5-23 ].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to employ the teaching of Patterson in the system of Holcomb for controlling nature lighting, window blinds, draperies and reducing energy usage in a room as desired.

Regarding claim 72, Holcomb discloses the system of effecting a reduction of energy usage in a room of a multi-unit building as determining a vacant occupant status of the room / un-rented room in the hotels or guest house [ figs.1-3, col.1, line 58 to col.2, line 8 and col.3, lines 54-65 ].

Regarding claim 73, Holcomb discloses the system of effecting a reduction of energy usage in a room of a multi-unit building as determining a vacant occupant status of the room / un-occupied room in the hotels or guest house [ figs.1-3, col.1, line 58 to col.2, line 8 and col.3, lines 54-65 ].

Regarding claim 74, Holcomb discloses the system of effecting a reduction of energy usage in a room of a multi-unit building as determining a vacant occupant status of the room / un-occupied room in the hotels or guest house which can be sensed by door switch detector (14B) [ fig.5, col.1, line 55 to col.2, line 13, col.3, lines 54-65 and col.6, lines 1-5 ].

Regarding claim 75, Holcomb discloses the method of effecting a reduction of energy usage in a room of a multi-unit building as determining a vacant occupant status of the room / un-occupied room in the hotels or guest house which can be sensed by infrared motion detector (15B) [ fig.4, col.1, lines 55-64, col.3, lines 54-65 and col.6, lines 6-9 ].

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Regarding claims 76-77, The Holcomb's does the micro-controller device (13) is an integrated circuit device includes a memory for programming data information in the room as setting on / off the lighting, television, temperature as heat or AC as a network in the room when a guest / occupant status as in or out of the room which can be sensed by motion detector (15B) and door switch detector (14B) [ figs.2,8, col.2, lines 15-22, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-55 and col.7, lines 54-64 ].

Regarding claim 78, The Holcomb's discloses the room environment control device communicates with the micro-controller device (13) is an integrated circuit device includes a memory for programming data information in the room as setting on / off the lighting, television, temperature as heat or AC as a network in the room when a guest / occupant status as in or out of the room which can be sensed by motion detector (15B) and door switch detector (14B) [ figs.2,8, col.2, lines 15-22, col.5, lines 36-42 , col.6, lines 23-55 and col.7, lines 54-64 ].

### **Conclusion**

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.


- Schroeder (U.S. 4,727,918) blind adjuster.
- Giddings et al. (U.S. 6,208,905) System and method for controlling conditions in a space.
- Biskup, Sr. et al. (U.S. 6,700,224) security and energy control.

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5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung T. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-2982. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:00am to 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hofsass, Jeffery can be reached on (571) 272-2981. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hung T. Nguyen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "H" and "N".

Examiner: Hung T. Nguyen

Date: May 2, 2005